

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously presented). Hydrogel which has a three dimensional crosslinked polymer network containing hydrophobic and hydrophilic components having entrapped in the three dimensional structure bioactive agent selected from the group consisting of synthetic or natural polymers which are proteins or mixtures thereof, said hydrogel being formed by the free radical polymerization of a hydrogel-forming system which comprises from 0.01 to 99.99% by weight of (A) a hydrophobic macromer with unsaturated group terminated ends, and from 99.99 to 0.01% by weight of (B) a hydrophilic polymer which is a polysaccharide containing hydroxy groups which are reacted with unsaturated group introducing compound, the total of the percentages of (A) and (B) being 100%.

Claim 2. (Original) The hydrogel containing entrapped agent as claimed in Claim 1 where said agent is a therapeutic agent for treating, postponing or preventing disorder selected from the group consisting of coronary artery disease, inflammation, restenosis and stent rejection and is present in a therapeutically effective amount.

Claim 3. (Original) Vascular stent containing coating comprising the hydrogel containing entrapped agent as claimed in Claim 2.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The hydrogel containing entrapped agent as claimed in Claim 1 where the protein is a synthetic polymer of weight average molecular weight ranging from 10,000 to 500,000.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) Surgical implant containing coating comprising the hydrogel containing entrapped agent as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) Surgical implant as claimed in Claim 5 where the surgical implant containing coating is a vascular stent containing said coating, said vascular stent containing said coating being for deployment after angioplasty.

Claim 7. (New) The hydrogel as claimed in Claim 1 where the polysaccharide containing hydroxy groups is dextran having a weight average molecular weight ranging from 40,000 to 80,000.